

Mission

The Advisory Board is to:

Periodically review available services and facilities for victims and their families.

Determine the needs of the victims and their families.

Each year, submit at least one report to the County Executive and County Council on the progress of programs to victims and their families and of actions needed to improve these programs.

Make recommendations for appropriate allocation of funds in accordance with agreed upon priorities and consideration of financial resources.

Assist the director of the Department of Health and Human Services in the development of the annual victim services and families plan.

Provide input to the Governor's Victim Services Program.

Act as a local advocate for victim services programming.

VSAB
the Voice of the Crime Victim

***Meetings are open to the public,
guests are welcome.***

Date: 4th Thursday of each month
(Excluding August and Holidays)

Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Place: Department of Health and
Human Services
1301 Piccard Drive
4th Floor Conference Room
Rockville, Maryland 20850

VSAB Office Support:
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in alternative formats.

VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

***Empowering,
Supporting,
and
Advocating
for Crime
Victims***



www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vasap

The Advisory Board on Victims and Their Families, also known as the VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (VSAB) was established to support Montgomery County's commitment to serve victims of crime and their families, including rape, domestic violence, sexual assault, homicide survivors, adults molested as children, terrorism, assault, battery, carjacking, burglary, hate violence, and other crimes.

The Advisory Board on Victims and Their Families, known as Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB), was established by Montgomery County Bill 22-86. With the reorganization of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), VSAB was recodified in Art. VII - Sec. 24-56, Bill 7-95.

Membership

The VSAB has 18 voting members and four non-voting members. Membership is comprised of five individuals from among the mental health, legal, medical, dental and nursing professions, ten citizens at-large who do not belong to any of the professions mentioned above; one member of the clergy; and representatives designated by the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council and the Mental Health Advisory Committee.

The following two programs of Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services aid crime victims:

Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program (VASAP)

- ⇒ 24-hour crisis outreach counseling for victims of sexual assault at hospitals and police stations.
- ⇒ Counseling and support groups for crime victims.
- ⇒ Support groups for surviving family and friends of homicide and DWI victims.
- ⇒ Victim assistance through the criminal justice system.
- ⇒ Compensation for eligible victims from the Montgomery County Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.
- ⇒ Liaison with the State Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Abused Persons Program (APP)

- ⇒ 24-hour accessible shelter for victims of domestic abuse and their dependent children.
- ⇒ Individual counseling, education and support groups for victims and abusers.

- ⇒ Victim assistance with the legal system and other County agencies.

Both VASAP and APP services are available to all Montgomery County residents and victims of crimes committed in Montgomery County and their families. Counseling fees are charged on a sliding scale. No one is denied services for inability to pay.

VSAB helps crime victims by:

- ◆ Ensuring a Montgomery County system that is victim friendly.
- ◆ Advocating for funding for victim programs and services.
- ◆ Educating the community on victim related issues.

Accomplishments

- ◆ Collaborated with the police department to enhance its response protocols for victims of sexual assault
- ◆ Testified before the County Council and met council members to lobby for victim program budget needs.
- ◆ Lobbied the Maryland House and Senate for statewide laws that supported victims of violent crime.
- ◆ Responded to the Office of Legislative Oversight's Study on Victim Services.